

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claim Form and Claim as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

1 (original): A matrix for culturing cardiovascular cells to regenerate cardiovascular tissue comprising a sponge made of a bioabsorbable material and a reinforcement made of a bioabsorbable material.

2 (original): The matrix for culturing cardiovascular cells to regenerate cardiovascular tissue according to Claim 1, wherein the bioabsorbable material is at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyglycolic acid, polylactic acid (D form, L form, DL form), polycaprolactone, glycolic acid-lactic acid (D form, L form, DL form) copolymer, glycolic acid-caprolactone copolymer, lactic acid (D form, L form, DL form)-caprolactone copolymer and poly(p-dioxanone).

3 (original): The matrix for culturing cardiovascular cells to regenerate cardiovascular tissue according to Claim 1 for use in regenerating an artery, wherein the sponge comprises a lactic acid-caprolactone copolymer and the reinforcement comprises polylactic acid.

4 (original): The matrix for culturing cardiovascular cells to regenerate cardiovascular tissue according to Claim 1 for use in regenerating a vein, wherein the sponge comprises a lactic acid-caprolactone copolymer and the reinforcement comprises polyglycolic acid.

5 (original): The matrix for culturing cardiovascular cells to regenerate cardiovascular tissue according to Claim 1 for use in regenerating a cardiac valve or a pericardium, wherein the sponge comprises a lactic acid-caprolactone copolymer and the reinforcement comprises polylactic acid.

6 (original): The matrix for culturing cardiovascular cells to regenerate cardiovascular tissue according to Claim 1, wherein the sponge has a pore diameter of about 5 μm to about 100 μm .

7 (original): A method for regenerating cardiovascular tissue comprising seeding cells on the matrix of Claim 1 and culturing the cells.

8 (original): The method for regenerating cardiovascular tissue according to Claim 7, wherein the cardiovascular tissue to be regenerated is a blood vessel.

9 (original): The method for regenerating cardiovascular tissue according to Claim 7, wherein the cardiovascular tissue to be regenerated is a cardiac valve.

Appl. No. : **10/070,938**
Filed : **June 4, 2002**

10 (original): The method for regenerating cardiovascular tissue according to Claim 7, wherein the cardiovascular tissue to be regenerated is a pericardium.

11 (original): The method for regenerating cardiovascular tissue according to Claim 7, wherein the cells to be seeded are a mixed cell culture of two or three different kinds selected from the group consisting of endothelial cells, smooth muscle cells and fibroblasts.

12 (new): A vascular prosthesis comprising the matrix for culturing cardiovascular cells of Claim 1 which is seeded with a cell culture and cultured in vitro.

13 (new): The vascular prosthesis according to Claim 12, wherein the cell culture is a mixed cell culture of two or three different kinds selected from the group consisting of endothelial cells, smooth muscle cells and fibroblasts.

14 (new): The vascular prosthesis according to Claim 12, wherein the matrix surface is completely covered with the cells.